

Education Visas After August Results – A Parent Guide

For many students, university places are only fully confirmed once final A level, BTEC or equivalent results are released in August. It is important to understand that most universities will not issue the official offer confirmation or visa document (such as a CAS for the UK, I-20 for the USA, or CoE for Australia) until results day, when all conditions have been formally met. This means that the visa process often begins in earnest in mid-August, leaving a limited window before courses start in September or October. Early preparation is therefore essential.

Once results are released and the university confirms the place, students will receive the formal documentation required to begin their visa application. At this stage, accuracy is critical. All details - including the student's name (exactly as in the passport), date of birth, course title and fee information - must be checked carefully. Any errors can delay the process.

The school will support families by certifying the official Statement of Results on results day. A certified copy can then be scanned and sent directly to the university if required. This is often helpful where universities are awaiting formal confirmation before issuing visa documentation.

However, families should not wait until August to begin preparing. Different countries have different visa requirements, and proper research in advance is key. For example, the UK requires students applying from Thailand to provide a valid tuberculosis (TB negative) test certificate from an approved clinic. Some countries require medical checks, police clearances, or proof of health insurance. Financial evidence requirements also vary significantly. Parents should review the official government immigration website of the destination country well before results day.

In practical terms, families should aim to:

- Check passport validity (ideally at least six months remaining - much longer is desirable).
- Review visa requirements for the specific country in advance.
- Confirm whether a TB test or other medical documentation is required.
- Prepare financial documents early and understand required holding periods.
- Check whether English language evidence is needed.

English language requirements require particular attention. Even if a student has studied in English, this does not automatically mean a test is waived. For the UK, where an English test is required for visa purposes, it must usually be a UKVI-approved IELTS test (IELTS for UKVI), not a standard IELTS Academic test. Families should confirm directly with the university whether IELTS is required and, if so, whether a UKVI version is necessary.

It is also advisable to monitor appointment availability at the relevant embassy or visa application centre (for example, VFS in Thailand). While a visa application cannot be submitted until the university issues the official sponsorship document, families can familiarise themselves with the booking system in advance and aim to secure a biometric appointment shortly after results are released. A flight booking to Bangkok most likely will be needed. August is a peak period and appointments can fill quickly.

University counsellors are able to advise families on the general visa process, typical timelines, common documentation requirements, and areas where delays often occur. They can help you understand what questions to ask universities and where to find official government guidance. However, visa applications are ultimately a legal process between the applicant and the immigration authorities of the destination country. Families remain responsible for ensuring that all information submitted is accurate and complete.

Above all, preparation and accuracy reduces stress. Visa applications must match the passport and university documentation exactly, and financial evidence must meet strict technical rules. Each country operates differently, and assumptions can lead to delays. Parents are strongly encouraged to verify all requirements directly with official embassy or government sources and the university before submitting any application.

With careful planning in June/July and prompt action in August, the process is entirely manageable.